

Editorial Pick it up

It's only been five months, but already enough litter has accumulated in town to warrant a Fall Clean Up Day, being organized by the town's Litter-Free Task Force this Saturday.

"There just seems to be an awful lot of litter that has appeared since our last Clean Up Day," task force chair Jane Fogal says. At that time, on Earth Day weekend in April, more than 60 groups spent a couple of hours on a Saturday, collecting 12 tonnes of metal, six tonnes of regular garbage, three tonnes of wood and 60 tires.

We applaud all those who took the time to collect that litter last spring and hope they return on Saturday, but we wonder why the litter is back so soon.

According to the Task Force information on the town's Web site, motorists and pedestrians are responsible for creating 30 to 50 per cent of all litter. The remainder comes from household or commercial garbage, construction sites, loading and delivery areas, and from uncovered trucks.

The Task Force says people litter because they feel no sense of personal ownership for the area they are spoiling— people are more likely to litter in an area that has been spoiled by litter rather than a litter-free area.

Many may shrug off the careless toss of a coffee cup or candy wrapper but when it becomes a habit of many in this town— and many who are just passing through— this strewn garbage demonstrates a lack of caring about our community to prospective businesses and homeowners.

As Fogal says, "It just makes me feel so good driving around after the clean up to see what our town is supposed to look like. It gives you a positive feeling when you live in a place that is litter-free."

So while Clean Up Day may become both a spring and fall tradition, picking up litter should be an everyday tradition.



Letters to the editor...

Acton fair staff respond quickly to find child

Dear editor,

I would like to send out a letter of thanks to the staff and volunteers

at the Acton Fall Fair.

On Saturday I was at the Acton Fall Fair with my two-year-old daughter and my family. My daughter went missing for what seemed like hours, in actuality it was about 15 minutes. I would like to say first to my mother, my sister-in-law, my nephew and niece that if it wasn't for their efforts and help, I may not have found my daughter so quickly.

The staff at the fair were informed about my daughter's disappearance approximately two minutes after she disappeared, they had the park exits

all shut down, and security searching everywhere in a matter of minutes. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for the way these individuals handled this matter with such expertise and precision.

I do not think that I can actually express in words how thankful I am, but I am sure that anyone who has children knows what I am trying to say. Thank you for everything. The town of Acton should be very proud of the people who live in their town. I know I am.

Tammy Ann Elliott, Brampton

Woman says thanks to her rescuers

Dear editor,

On August 30 I went to the Georgetown Market Place with my sister. We were outside Zellers when I lost my balance and fell and hit the back of my head.

Almost immediately, a woman came to help me and a couple stopped their vehicle to see if they could help. The Zellers staff were also there

immediately to make sure I was okay and to call an ambulance.

Unfortunately, I was unable to get the names of all the people who stopped to help me. I would like to say thank you to those people who stopped, the staff at Zellers and the local ambulance service.

Janet Herrington, Georgetown

Teen: fair riot has become joke

Dear editor,

Re: Teens must be accountable. This is in response to the letter written by Marjorie Bilton addressing the incident that occurred at the Georgetown Fall Fair. In her letter she said "I feel sad that these teens have no direction, and feel frightened that they could be on a road to self-destruction. What a waste of life!"

As a Georgetown teen I must argue this statement for it is completely biased and not backed up in the least. You are pretty much saying that these teenagers are about to face a downfall over one single incident. I happen to know several of my peers who were involved in this incident and they have direction in their lives! They are going to university or college next year. They have goals, and the determination required to meet these goals. If you think that every single teenager who was there is wasting their life away simply because a "riot" occurred then you are incredibly mistaken.

This riot has become a joke, which is unfair to both the teenagers and the police officers involved. Blaming the kids and their parents is not going to put an end to this. Sure parents can address what happened with their kids, but it is not going to change the fact that this already happened. There were some mistakes made, but don't you think it is possible that people will learn from these mistakes? This whole thing is completely blown out of proportion, and as a teenager I would really appreciate it if people would stop saying that we are going no where in life just because once upon a time there was a riot at the fall fair.

Sheena Lyonais, Georgetown

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be edited.

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